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AIR POUCH

PRIORITY

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

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FROM : OSLO

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DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

October 3, 1955

REF : CA-2024, September 8, 1955

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SUBJECT: Visit to Norway of House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce

Eight members of the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, accompanied by Staff Member Dr. Andrew Stevenson and Mr. William Taylor of SAS and Mr. William McEvoy of PAA, have just visited Oslo. Members of the Congressional Committee on the Oslo visit were:

Rep. Oren Harris, Chairman
Rep. John Bell Williams
Rep. Morgan M. Moulder
Rep. Walter Rogers
Rep. Charles A. Wolverten
Rep. Joseph P. O'Hara
Rep. James I. Dooliver
Rep. Steven B. Derounian

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Congressman Harris exercised effective leadership over the group. The committee was called periodically to meetings to plan their program and in each case the schedule was followed.

The committee arrived fifteen minutes early, at 7:10 on Friday evening, September 30. They were met by the Charge d'Affaires, a.i. and a group of Embassy officers who had been named Escort Officers. The Congressmen were driven to their hotel in the personal cars of the Escort Officers.

A press conference was held at the hotel immediately after the arrival of the committee. Enclosure 1 is a translation of the news item which appeared in the Saturday afternoon (October 1) issue of (conservative) Aftenposten.

Embassy wives assisted the Congressmen in their Saturday morning shopping.

At 10:45 a.m. on Saturday, the Committee met in the office of the Charge d'Affaires for a very short briefing on the history in Norway of the Salk polio vaccine and then, accompanied by the Economic Counselor, proceeded to the office of Dr. Karl EVANG, Chief of the Norwegian Health Service. An exchange of views took place there on

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State Department review completed

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vaccination against polio and in response to a few general questions Dr. Evang described briefly the extent of socialized medicine in Norway. It was brought out at the meeting that there had been some disappointment in Norway at the impossibility last May of obtaining the Salk vaccine, that next spring Norway will probably wish to purchase some of the best vaccine that will be available, that Norwegian pharmaceutical companies will probably not find it profitable to produce polio vaccine, and that the Government laboratory which might produce the vaccine will probably not be built until two years from now. Several of the Congressmen commented very favorably on Dr. Evang's presentation of the situation in Norway.

The Charge d'affaires gave a luncheon for the visiting congressional committee at the Embassy residence at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday. The total number of guests was 36, including the Minister of Commerce Arne SKAUG, the Secretary-General of the Foreign Office, R.B. SKYLSTAD, and a number of prominent Norwegian officials and Norwegian and American businessmen.

After the luncheon the Congressmen were taken on a three-hour sight-seeing tour of the city.

In the evening members of the Delegation were entertained in officers' homes.

At 8:45 a.m. on Saturday morning the committee left by air for Stockholm.

There were no untoward incidents and on the basis of numerous compliments it appeared that the committee was well pleased with its stay in Oslo.

Hayden Raynor

Hayden Raynor
Charge d'affaires, a.i.

- Enc. 1: Translation of news item appearing in afternoon edition of Aftenposten (conservative), October 1, 1955.
- Enc. 2: Five clippings of news item appearing in afternoon edition of Aftenposten (conservative), October 1, 1955.

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